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DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Department of Surgery
Division of Neurosurgery


April 6, 1969

Dr. Edward F. MacNichol, Jr.
Director
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases & Stroke
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Dr. MacNichol,

I read with intense interest your address to the program directors's workshop for neurosurgical training held in Denver Colorado, Jan. 22-24, 1969. I agree that there is need for neurosurgeons who are better versed in the basic research areas. My increasing frustration in clinical neurosurgery specifically, the treatment of malignant brain tumors, goads me to assume increasing interest in the more basic areas i.e. molecular biology where, hopefully, one may find the solution to this increasingly frustrating problem. It has reached the point that I am willing to spend 2 or more years as some kind of a fellow in order to delve into the problem in depth. I wonder if I could get some advice from you in this regard specially the where, how and what in terms of fellowship application. I am a board-certified neurosurgeon holding a full time academic appointment at the above institution. I have had 1 1/2 years research experience in neuropathology with some electronmicroscopy and for the past 1 1/2 years, have spent almost full time working in the laboratory of micro-neurochemistry. I have in mind working with either Dr. Francis Crick or Dr. James Watson, the former in Cambridge. I would appreciate your opinion regarding the matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



William Cuatco, M.D., FACS
Assistant Professor

Watson has recently become interested in oncogenic viruses so this would be good. Sidney Brenner rather than Francis Crick is working on the nervous system in Cambridge, Bob Spiegelman will be moving to Columbia in July and is interested primarily in the cancer problem. Probably Watson and Spiegelman's interests are closest to Cuatrecasas's.

You asked me
to hold this so you
can work it over some more.